

“Sink or Float Boat” Words

Orton-Gillingham Concept: “oa”

Science: Displacement

Materials:

1. Aluminum foil (about 5” by 6”)
2. Marking pens
3. Marbles or pennies

Directions:

1. Give students the pieces of aluminum foil and marking pens
2. Dictate the following words (students sound as they write):

float boat foam coax load soak oar

3. Students make a boat out of the aluminum.
4. They then place marbles or pennies into the boat to determine the number that their boat will carry before sinking.

Explanation: The boat will float if the amount of water that is displaced weighs the same as the boat. The boat will sink if the water displaced weighs less than the boat.

Alternate: The students use a five-inch square of aluminum foil as a raft. They write the above words and then float it in a container of water. They then place paper clips on the raft until it sinks.

“Moving Soap Boat” Words

Orton-Gillingham Concept: “oa”

Science: Surface tension

Materials:

1. Aluminum foil (about 4” by 5”)
2. Marking pens
3. Dishwashing detergent

Directions:

1. Give students the pieces of aluminum foil and marking pens
2. Dictate the following words (students sound as they write):

foam soap float boat load soar soak
3. Students make a triangular-shaped boat out of the aluminum.
4. Put a glob of detergent on the outside of the boat’s back end. Make sure that this detergent will touch the water.
5. Gently place the boat in the water and watch it move.

Explanation: The water is more attracted to the soap than to water molecules. The soap also breaks the surface tension of the water and thereby acts like an engine.